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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /104 W
---------- 039083
R 261447 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9952
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1401

E. O. 11652 N/ A
TAGS: PFOR MARR GW SW US VN VS
SUBJECT: FORMER WEST GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER TELLS SWEDES WHAT HE THINKS ABOUT KISSINGER SPEECH & VIETNAM PROTEST

REF: STATE 75989

SUMMARY: HERBERT WEHNER, ON INFORMAL VISIT TO STOCKHOLM, REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED NEW KISSINGER ATLANTIC CONCEPT AND DEFENDED FRG' S CAUTIOUS PUBLIC ATTITUDE ON VIETNAM QUESTION.

1. FORMER SPD (WEST GERMANY) DEPUTY LEADER HERBERT WEHNER, ON INFORMAL VISIT TO STOCKHOLM AT THE INVITATION OF SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COLLEAGUES, WAS INVITED TO BRIEF PRIME MINISTER PALME, FOREIGN MINISTER WICKMAN, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC RIKSDAG GROUP AND OTHERS ABOUT FOREIGN AFFIARS QUESTIONS SUCH AS OSTPOLITIK.

2. DURING THE VISIT WEHNER GAVE AN INFORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE. ASKED ABOUT DR. KISSINGER' S SKETCH OF A NEW
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ATLANTIC FRAMEWORK, WEHNER TOOK SHARP EXCEPTION TO THE KISSINGER CONCEPT , WHICH HE REPORTEDLY CALLED A " MONSTER." HE SAID THAT GERMANY WILL NEVER " JOIN", NEITHER WILL THE FRENCH. HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: " THER AMERICANS ALWAYS FEEL A NEED TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING BIG AND OUT IN THE BLUE. THE PROBLEMS WHE HAVE TO SOLVE CAN-NOT POSSIBLY BE DEALT WITH IN THIS WAY. THE MONETARY QUESTION IS AN EXAMPLE, BUT KISSINGER DOESN' T UNDERSTAND MUCH OF MONETARY MATTERS."

3. WHEN ASKED WHY WEST GERMANY HAD REMAINED SO SILENT ON VIETNAM, WEHNER SAID: " YOU CAN ALWAYS PROTEST. BUT FOR A GOVERNMENT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO GO AROUND PROTESTING. IT HAS TO DO SOMETHING MORE. WILLY BRANDT HAS DONE WHAT HE COULD. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR OPINION. I HAVE TOLD KISSINGER WHAT I THINK. THEY RESPECT US. WE CANNOT SOLVE THE VIETNAM QUESTION IN GERMANY. IT WOULD BE VERY UNFORTUNATE IF GERMANY, WHICH TANK GOD IS NOT A BIG POWER, WOULD AGAIN BECOME A BIG MOUTH POWER." WEHNER ALSO SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN BRANDT AND PALME ON THE SUBJECT. " I HAVE SEEN AND READ THESE LETTERS. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHIES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PROTESTED. BUT WE HVE NOT EXPRESSED OUR SYMPATHIES FOR A VICTORY BY ONE OF THE MILITARY SIDES. THE CONFLICT CANNOT BE SOLVED MILITARILY." HOWEVER, WEHNER THOUGH THAT SWEDEN' S VIETNAM POLICIES HAD INFLUENCED THE WAR. AT LEAST HE HOPED THAT THEY HAD.
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